



Federal Policy Update on Child & Youth Homelessness

September 23, 2025



General Housekeeping



This webinar will last one hour



Please type questions into the Q&A box



Session is being recorded



Certificate issued for attendance



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SchoolHouse Connection



SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness, from prenatal to postsecondary, through strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with youth, families, schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, and service providers.

Learn more:

schoolhouseconnection.org

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About National Network for Youth

NN4Y is on a mission to transform systems so that no young person in America experiences homelessness.



collaborate • advocate • transform

NN4Y works with youth who have experienced homelessness and youth service providers from across the country to prevent and end youth, young adult, and young parent family homelessness and human trafficking. Together, we envision a future in which all young people have a safe place to call home, with endless opportunities to achieve their fullest potential.

WEBSITE: <https://nn4youth.org>

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Today's Agenda

- 1. FY2026 Funding (Fiscal year starting Oct. 1; 2026-2027 school year)**
 - a. Current state of play
 - b. What happens if the government shuts down?
 - c. What's at stake for children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness in FY2026 appropriations?
- 2. FY2025 Funding: Cancellations, Rerouting, Delays**
- 3. Federal Agency Actions, Executive Actions, and Litigation**
- 4. Update on Housing and Higher Education Legislation**
- 5. What You Can Do (Advocacy STILL Matters)**



FY2026 Appropriations: State of Play

Deadline for Funding the Government: September 30, 2025

- Of 12 appropriations bills, only three have passed both chambers.
- On the remaining 9 bills – including labor, health, human services, education, and housing – the House and Senate are very far apart.
 - The House bills largely reflect the President's cuts/priorities, and are largely partisan.
 - The Senate bills reject many of the President's cuts/priorities, and are much more bipartisan.

Two Competing Proposals to Keep the Government Open

Republican/Majority Proposal

- Extends funding until November 20th
- Includes funding for additional security for Congress and Administration officials
- No other major policy provisions
- Passed the House almost entirely on party lines
- Rejected in the Senate (needs 60 votes)

Democrat/Minority Proposal

- Extends funding until October 31st
- Includes permanent extension of health care subsidies that will expire in December
- Reverses Medicaid cuts from enacted Trump budget bill (HR 1)
- **Limits President's ability to withhold funding that Congress approved**
- Includes funding for additional security for Congress and Administration officials
- Rejected in the Senate (needs 60 votes)

NEITHER PROPOSAL IS LIKELY TO BECOME LAW.

About Continuing Resolutions (Especially Full-year Continuing Resolutions)

Continuing Resolutions (CRs) typically do not:

- Specify the exact funding amount for many federal programs. In a full-year CR, this makes some programs more vulnerable to the Administration's defunding or rerouting.
- Include policy provisions (i.e. allowable uses of funds, directions for agencies, etc.)
- Include earmarks (Congressionally Directed Funding)

What Happens if There is a Government Shutdown?

- In a shut down, the President has very broad authority to determine which agencies/offices close, who gets paid, and which funding goes out – or does not go out.
- Each federal agency typically posts its contingency plan in advance of a shutdown. It is unclear if or when the Trump Administration will post these plans.
- For federal education programs, some programs have “advance funding” that is supposed to go out on October 1. This is FY2026 funding that was approved in the FY2025 appropriations law. The following programs have a portion of their funding in “advance funding” and may be impacted in a shut-down.
 - Title I state grants
 - Title II state grants
 - Special Education state grants
 - Career and Technical Education state grants

What Happens if There is a Government Shutdown?

In previous shutdowns, payments for **HUD discretionary grant programs** (such as CoCs, YHDP, YHSI) were paused while payments for **HHS discretionary grant programs** (like Head Start, RHYA) were allowed to continue.

However, things could be different this year since [OMB and DOGE must approve discretionary grant payments.](#)

- **New** grant announcements will most likely be delayed.
- **Drawdowns from the Payment Management System** will probably be delayed.
- If you receive discretionary grants, prepare for funding gaps just in case.



FY2026 Appropriations: **What's at Stake for Children, Youth, and Families Experiencing Homelessness?**

Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) Program: Advocacy Win!

- Recall. The President's FY2026 budget proposal called for eliminating funding for the EHCY program via a block grant.
- SHC's goal: Focused advocacy on the House Committee because it would be more likely to adopt President's proposal, and if we could preserve EHCY there, it might protect in the future, too.
- Result: BOTH the House and the Senate rejected the block-grant proposal, maintained level funding for EHCY, and included language allowing funds to be spent for an additional year.
- This was not inevitable. The House bill eliminates over 20 education programs.
- Advocacy Matters: including over 26 visits with over 92 people.

Other FY2026 K12 Education Funding

	Senate	House
Title I Part A Funding	✓ (slight increase)	✗ (27% cut)
Migrant Education (Title I, Part C)	✓ (level funded)	✗ (eliminated)
Title I Part D (Neglected and Delinquent)	✓ (level funded)	✗ (eliminated)
Title III (English Learners)	✓ (level funded)	✗ (eliminated)
Special Education	✓ (slight increase)	✓ (slight increase)

THESE FUNDING LEVELS MUST BE NEGOTIATED.

FY2026 Early Childhood Funding

	Senate	House
Preschool Development Grants	✓ (level funded)	✗ (eliminated)
Head Start/Early Head Start	✓ (slight increase)	✓ (level funded)
Child Care and Development Block Grant	✓ (slight increase)	✓ (level funded)
Child Care Access Means Parents in Schools	✓ (level funded)	✗ (eliminated)
IDEA Part C (Early Intervention)	✓ (level funded)	✓ (level funded)
IDEA Preschool Grants	✓ (level funded)	✗ (eliminated)

THESE FUNDING LEVELS MUST BE NEGOTIATED.

FY2026 Higher Education Funding

	Senate	House
Pell Grants	✓ (level funded)	✓ (level funded)
TRIO	✓ (level funded)	✓ (level funded)
GEAR UP	✓ (level funded)	✓ (level funded)
Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (SEOG)	✓ (level funded)	✗ (eliminated)
Federal Work Study	✓ (slight increase)	✗ (36% cut)

THESE FUNDING LEVELS MUST BE NEGOTIATED.

FY2026 Youth Homelessness Funding

	Senate	House
Runaway and Homeless Youth Act	✓ (level funded)	✓ (level funded)
Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program + Youth Homelessness System Improvement Grants	✓ (level funded)	✗ (eliminated FY2025 and FY2026)
HUD Continuum of Care	✓ (9% increase)	✓ (increase comes from eliminating YHDP/YHSI)
Emergency Solutions Grants	✓ (level funded)	✓ (level funded)
Job Corps	✓ (level funded)	✗ (50% cut)
AmeriCorps	✓ (level funded)	✗ (50% cut)

THESE FUNDING LEVELS MUST BE NEGOTIATED.

See the funding proposals for all programs affecting youth experiencing homelessness [here](#).

Fiscal Year 2025 Funding: Cancellations, Rerouting, and Delays

Fiscal Year 2025

Fiscal Year 2025: Impacts on Previously Appropriated Funds

Funding for FY 2025 was finalized on March 15, 2025. The 2025 fiscal year is October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2025.

(This funding is different from FY 2026 funding, which has not been finalized yet.)

Because of the Administration's significant priority shifts, **FY 2025 funding for many programs have been cancelled, rerouted, delayed, or tied up in litigation.**

Fiscal Year 2025

Fiscal Year 2025: Department of Education (ED) Funding

- **Withholding TRIO funds**
 - More than two dozen TRIO grant awards are currently being withheld by the Administration.
 - On September 10, U.S. Senators Jeff Merkley (D-OR) and Raphael Warnock (D-GA) led [36 bipartisan Senators](#) in urging ED and OMB to immediately release those TRIO grant awards.
- **Redirecting funds**
 - On September 15, ED announced it will redirect funding for **Minority Serving Institutions, magnet schools, teacher preparation, gifted and talented, and arts education programs** to fund programs that align with the Administration's priorities, **including Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Tribally Controlled Colleges and Universities (TCCUs), charter schools, and American history and civics programs.**
 - ED claims legal authority to redirect these funds based on its interpretation of the FY 2025 Continuing Resolution, which did not specify amounts for those programs.

Fiscal Year 2025

Fiscal Year 2025: Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) Awards

- Applications for new RHYA awards were submitted on July 28.
 - The Street Outreach Program—which has been a standalone grant since 1994—was collapsed into RHYA’s other grant awards.
- **What we know:**
 - The Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) finished their reviews and submitted their recommendations to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and DOGE (*required as part of the Administration’s new grant review process*).
 - OMB and DOGE conducted their reviews and may have rejected some of FYSB’s recommendations.
 - Award announcements are expected on September 30.
- **What we don’t know (yet):**
 - How many, if any, grant applications were rejected by OMB/DOGE, and if they will be allowed to appeal.

If a government shutdown occurs, new grant awards will be delayed.

Fiscal Year 2025

Fiscal Year 2025: Continuum of Care Builds NOFO

- On September 5, HUD released the third iteration of the Continuum of Care (CoC) Builds NOFO.
 - **This is not the regular CoC NOFO—this is to acquire, construct, or fix PSH units for elderly and disabled individuals.**
 - The second iteration was released in the summer and applicants were selected.
 - Following the Administration’s [executive order on criminalization](#), HUD pulled back the second NOFO and released this new version.
- The NOFO **requires** projects to be in a jurisdiction (state, county, city) that:
 - “...enforces laws and/or ordinances prohibiting urban camping or loitering, prohibiting open illicit drug use, and prohibiting urban squatting.”
 - “...cooperates with Federal immigration enforcement.”
(*ie, no sanctuary cities*)
- HUD is [being sued](#) over this requirement and others—the lawsuit argues that the requirements are too partisan and overstep the agency’s authority.

Executive Updates and Accompanying Lawsuits

Executive: Actions to Criminalize Homelessness

On July 24, Trump signed an Executive Order (EO): [Ending Crime And Disorder On America's Streets](#).

- Pressures states and localities to involuntarily commit or incarcerate unsheltered individuals who are using substances or who have severe mental health challenges.
- Directs federal agencies to prioritize funding for jurisdictions that do so.
- Directs HUD to end support for Housing First and harm reduction policies.
- Directs HUD to require grantees to share data with law enforcement.

The directives in this EO have already appeared in NOFOs and new agency priorities. However, **EOs do not supercede laws**.

This, in conjunction with the Supreme Court's decision in *Grants Pass* (*not cruel and unusual punishment to fine or arrest someone for sleeping outside, even if there are no alternatives*), is taking our federal homelessness response in a highly concerning direction.

Executive: ACF's New Strategic Initiative

On September 16, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) announced their new guiding principles as part of their [strategic alignment initiative](#), which explains the criteria they will use to fund programs like RHYA, Head Start, early childhood programs, etc.

Many of the provisions are highly concerning and unaligned with known best practices for serving youth and young adults experiencing homelessness.

Are the initiative's provisions legal?

- Some provisions are already being challenged in court (PRWORA and CoC Builds lawsuits), but ACF is careful to use protective language such as “to the extent permitted by law.”
- The legality of other provisions, such as “Eliminating DEI and Gender Ideology in Funded Programs” and “Promoting Marriage and Family Formation,” depends on how ACF interprets them. We won’t know until grants are awarded, renewed, or denied.

Executive

Executive: Reinterpreting the Federal Benefits Rule

In July, HHS and other federal agencies [issued guidance](#) to reinterpret PRWORA protections **that would have excluded immigrants from Head Start, adult education, Chafee Education and Training Vouchers, and other federally supported services.**

In response to litigation, two federal courts have blocked the Administration's attempt to limit who qualifies for federal programs under the 1996 welfare law (PRWORA).

The lawsuits have placed **a nationwide hold** on implementing the new guidance, so **immigrant families and youth in all states can continue to access these programs** while the legal process plays out. The Administration plans to appeal, but for now, protections remain in place. [Read more.](#)



Housing and Higher Education Legislation

Housing for Homeless Students Act

Coming Soon: Bipartisan, Bicameral Re-Introduction of the Housing for Homeless Students Act

The Issue:

- Since 1987, over 3.7 million Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units were created to provide affordable housing options to lower-income individuals.
- However, full-time students are excluded from the list of eligible tenants.
- There are some exceptions to this student rule - including former foster youth. However, homeless youth are not eligible. As a result, they must choose between being a full-time student, and having a place to live.

The Solution:

- HHSA would add homeless youth and veterans to the list of eligible tenants. It has no budget impact.

Bipartisan Housing Package Advances: Leaves Out Homeless Children & Youth

- On Tuesday, July 29th, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee advanced a bipartisan housing package, [“Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream \(ROAD\) to Housing Act.”](#)
- First major housing legislation to advance in more than a decade
- Seeks to address housing affordability, increase the housing supply, and improve housing programs.
- Fails to include—or even acknowledge—the urgent needs of children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness. Omitted:
 - Bipartisan S. 1667 - Homeless Children and Youth Act as introduced by Senators Katie Britt (R-AL) and Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD)
 - Bipartisan Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act by Senators Chris Van Hollen (D-MD) and Todd Young (R-IN)

Homeless Children & Youth Act

On May 7, 2025, the S. 1667 - Homeless Children and Youth Act (HCYA) was reintroduced by U.S. Senators Katie Britt (R-AL) and Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD).

Ensures that children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness are no longer shut out of homeless assistance because they do not meet the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) restrictive definition of homelessness.

[More information and take action.](#)

Key Components:

- Aligns HUD's definition of homelessness with those of other federal programs.
- Requires HUD to score applications primarily on whether they are cost-effective in meeting the priorities and goals that communities identify in their local plans.
- Improves HUD homeless assistance data and transparency.

**What You Can Do –
No Matter Your Role**

Our Approach to Policy Advocacy

- Fiercely nonpartisan
- Long history of very successfully working across the aisle – an approach that we will maintain
- We will continue to examine and take positions policies for their impact on children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness, based on our direct work with youth, families, educators, and providers
- There are extreme positions gaining traction that we will oppose, and deep divides we must navigate.



You Have Unique Knowledge + Power

- Nobody else knows what you know. Your knowledge will not be communicated to policymakers without you.
- Very few people are speaking to lawmakers specifically about children, youth, and families who are homeless.
- Local constituent engagement is the most effective way to change policy. Lawmakers pay attention to local data and news.
- **Engaging with elected officials directly may be the only brake on potentially harmful policies in this Congress.**



Questions or Discussion

SHC and NN4Y Trackers

- [SHC's Live Tracking of Major Actions](#)
- [SHC Federal Policy Page](#)
- [Read NN4Y's latest blog posts](#)
- [NN4Y's Take Action Center](#)
- [Sign up for NN4Y's Newsletter to stay up-to-date](#)



Upcoming NN4Y Webinars



From Crisis to Action: Combatting the Criminalization of Youth Homelessness After Grants Pass

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern

(1:00 PM Central, 12:00 PM Mountain, 11:00 AM Pacific)



Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness: Supporting Young Parents and Their Children

Date: Wednesday, October 15, 2025

Time: 2:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern

(1:00 PM Central, 12:00 PM Mountain, 11:00 AM Pacific)

Upcoming SHC Webinars

Transportation for Students Experiencing Homelessness

Date: Wednesday, September 24, 2025

Time: 3PM Eastern | 2PM Central | 1PM Mountain | 12PM Pacific

[Click Here to Register](#)

Expanding College Access with the Common App

Date: Tuesday, September 30, 2025

Time: 1PM Eastern | 12PM Central | 11AM Mountain | 10AM Pacific

[Click Here to Register](#)

Making the Call: Determining McKinney-Vento Eligibility with Care and Consistency

Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025

Time: 3PM Eastern | 2PM Central | 1PM Mountain | 12PM Pacific

[Click Here to Register](#)

Supporting Alabama Youth Experiencing Homelessness in Obtaining Medical Care

** ALABAMA ONLY **

Date: Thursday, October 23, 2025

Time: 1PM Central

[Click Here to Register](#)

FAFSA 2026–2027: Strategies to Support Unaccompanied Homeless Youth

Date: Thursday, November 13, 2025

Time: 3PM Eastern | 2PM Central | 1PM Mountain | 12PM Pacific

[Click Here to Register](#)

Helpful Resources

Federal Protections



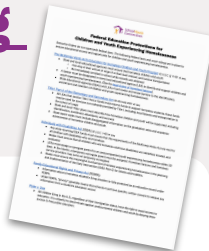
What it does :

Summarizes the core education protections for K12 students experiencing homelessness

Who it is for :

State and local educational agencies, community partners, advocates

Protecting EHCY



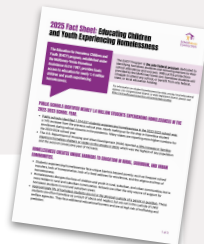
What it does :

Explains the EHCY program for policymakers across the political spectrum

Who it is for :

Legislators, legislative staff, local elected officials and policymakers

2025 EHCY Facts



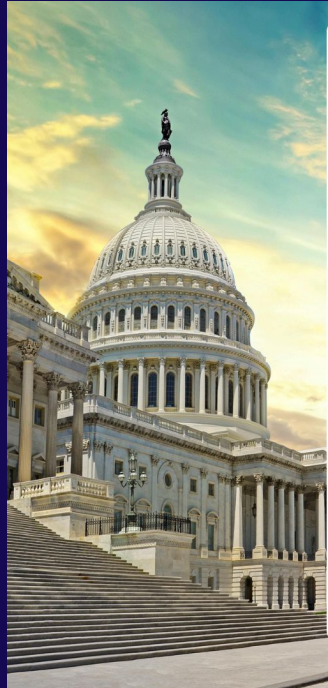
What it does :

Provides the latest data on student homelessness, basic EHCY information.
Downloadable/editable.

Who it is for :

Broader education as well as policymakers

Join us in making an impact.



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I AM HERE Vital Document Legal Hotline for Youth

Callers Young people experiencing homelessness.

Phone Operators Legal professionals from Baker McKenzie and pro bono lawyers from other corporations.

Every Wednesday

12 to 8 PM Eastern | 11 AM to 7 PM Central

10 AM to 6 PM Mountain | 9 AM to 5 PM Pacific

NATIONAL NETWORK



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*Voicemails and texts are welcome and will be returned.



Education
Breakouts with
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National Summit on Youth Homelessness + Hill Day

NATIONAL
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March 12-13, 2026 | Washington DC, Hyatt Regency on Capitol Hill

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- Webinar announcements
- News related to education and homelessness



<https://bit.ly/4brxbor>



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